

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for inventory assessment, comprising:
a communication device capable of being associated with an inventory object,
5 the communication device comprising:
a transceiver operable to transmit and receive messages;
a memory coupled to the transceiver, the memory operable to store
data in the messages; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to generate
10 an enumeration query, to facilitate the transmission of the enumeration query by the
transceiver, and to monitor messages associated with the enumeration query, wherein
at least one of the messages may include data regarding an inventory object beyond
the broadcast range of the transceiver.
- 15 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to
determine an identifier for the enumeration query and to include this identifier in the
enumeration query.
- 20 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
receive an enumeration query;
determine whether the enumeration query has been received previously; and
generate a message acknowledging the enumeration query if the enumeration
query has not been received previously.
- 25 4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to
include an identifier for the communication device in the enumeration query.
5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to
determine the number of messages acknowledging the enumeration query.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the processor is further operable to receive messages containing enumeration
data; and
the memory is operable to store the enumeration data.

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7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the processor is further operable to
generate a message containing the enumeration data.

8. The system of Claim 6, wherein the enumeration data indicates a
10 relationship between inventory objects.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the messages associated
with the enumeration query includes data about an inventory object.

10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the broadcast range of the transceiver
is approximately thirty feet.

11. A system for inventory assessment, comprising:
a communication device capable of being associated with an inventory object,
the communication device comprising:

- 5 means for transmitting and receiving messages;
means for storing data in the messages;
means for generating an enumeration query and facilitating the
transmission of the enumeration query; and
means for monitoring messages associated with the enumeration query,
wherein at least one of the messages may include data regarding an inventory object
10 beyond the broadcast range of the means for transmitting and receiving.

12. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:
means for determining an identifier for the enumeration query; and
means for including this identifier in the enumeration query.

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13. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:
means for receiving an enumeration query;
means for determining whether the enumeration query has been received
previously; and

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means for generating a message acknowledging the enumeration query if the
enumeration query has not been received previously.

14. The system of Claim 11, further comprising means for including an
identifier for the communication device in the enumeration query.

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15. The system of Claim 11, further comprising means for determining the
number of messages acknowledging the enumeration query.

16. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:
30 means for receiving messages containing enumeration data; and
means for storing the enumeration data.

17. The system of Claim 16, further comprising means for generating a message containing the enumeration data.

18. The system of Claim 16, wherein the enumeration data indicates a
5 relationship between inventory objects.

19. The system of Claim 11, wherein at least one of the messages associated with the enumeration query includes data about an inventory object.

10 20. The system of Claim 11, wherein the broadcast range of the means for transmitting and receiving is approximately thirty feet.

Patent 6626660

21. A set of logic encoded in media, the logic operable to assist in inventory assessment by accomplishing the following operations:

generate an enumeration query;

facilitate the transmission of the enumeration query; and

5 monitor messages associated with the enumeration query, wherein at least one of the messages may include data regarding an inventory object beyond the broadcast range of the transmission.

22. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to
10 determine an identifier for the enumeration query and to include this identifier in the enumeration query.

23. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to
15 determine whether messages are associated with the enumeration query.

24. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive an enumeration query;
determine whether the enumeration query has been received previously; and
generate a message acknowledging the enumeration query if the enumeration
20 query has not been received previously.

25. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to include an identifier associated with the logic in the enumeration query.

26. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to
25 determine the number of messages acknowledging the enumeration query.

27. The logic of Claim 21, wherein the logic is further operable to:
receive messages containing enumeration data; and
30 store the enumeration data.

28. The logic of Claim 27, wherein the logic is further operable to generate a message containing the enumeration data.

29. The logic of Claim 27, wherein the enumeration data indicates a
5 relationship between inventory objects.

30. The logic of Claim 21, wherein at least one of the messages associated with the enumeration query includes data about an inventory object.

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31. A method for inventory assessment, comprising:
generating an enumeration query;
transmitting the enumeration query;
monitoring messages associated with the enumeration query, wherein at least
5 one of the messages may include data regarding an inventory object beyond the
broadcast range of the transmission.

32. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
determining an identifier for the enumeration query; and
10 including this identifier in the enumeration query.

33. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
receiving an enumeration query;
determining whether the enumeration query has been received previously; and
15 generating a message acknowledging the enumeration query if the
enumeration query has not been received previously.

34. The method of Claim 31, further comprising including an identifier for
the communication device in the enumeration query.

35. The method of Claim 31, further comprising determining the number
of messages acknowledging the enumeration query.

36. The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
25 receiving messages containing enumeration data; and
storing the enumeration data.

37. The method of Claim 36, further comprising generating a message
containing the enumeration data.

38. The method of Claim 36, wherein the enumeration data indicates a
relationship between inventory objects.

39. The method of Claim 31, wherein at least one of the messages associated with the enumeration query includes data about an inventory object.

5 40. The method of Claim 31, wherein the broadcast range of the transmission is approximately thirty feet.

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41. A system for inventory assessment, comprising:
a communication device capable of being associated with an inventory object,
the communication device comprising:

- 5 a transceiver operable to transmit and receive messages;
a memory coupled to the transceiver, the memory operable to store
data in the messages; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the processor operable to:
generate an enumeration query including an identifier for the
10 communication device;
facilitate the transmission of the enumeration query by the
transceiver;
detect the receipt of messages associated with the enumeration
query;
15 determine the number of messages acknowledging the
enumeration query; and
determine the number of messages containing enumeration
data, wherein at least one of the messages may include data regarding an inventory
object beyond the broadcast range of the transceiver.

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42. The system of Claim 41, wherein the processor is further operable to:
detect the receipt of an enumeration query;
determine whether the enumeration query has been received previously;
generate a message acknowledging the enumeration query if the enumeration
25 query has not been received previously; and
generate a message containing the enumeration data.

43. The system of Claim 41, wherein the enumeration data indicates a
relationship between inventory objects.

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44. The system of Claim 41, wherein at least one of the messages
associated with the enumeration query includes data about an inventory object.

45. The system of Claim 41, wherein the broadcast range of the transceiver is approximately thirty feet.

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